

The FLYER

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 / Student-run newspaper

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ABOUT

The Flyer is Salisbury University's student newspaper-composed by students for students. The organization was established in 1973 to keep to SU community informed and entertained. Issues are published monthly throughout the regular school year and prints are printed by Delaware Printing Company of Dover, DE. A total of 800 copies are distributed on campus per circulation. The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. If you believe a factual error has been printed, feel free to contact the staff. Thank you.

Counseling Center in crisis as resignations grow



Two resignations have rocked SU's Counseling Center and strained the mental health resources available to university members. (Image courtesy of AboutFeed)

By Jakob Todd /
News Editor

The Salisbury University Counseling Center is losing nearly half of its full-time staff amid scrutiny over how the facility is supported by the university.

The center's Director Lilian Odera and Counselor Sabrina Sahle have each resigned from their respective positions at the facility, leaving the center with just two full-time counselors as Assistant Director Nikki Dyer assumes the role of acting director.

SU is now well below the minimum staffing requirements for counseling services based on campus population, according to the Interna-

tional Accreditation of Counseling Services Standards for University and College Counseling Services, an internationally accredited body for setting counseling standards at college campuses.

"Every effort should be made to maintain minimum staffing ratios in the range of one full-time equivalent professional staff member (excluding trainees) for every 1,000 - 1,500 students, depending on services offered and other campus mental health agencies," per the standards.

Home to 8,617 total students, per the university's strategic plan, SU was already under the minimum requirement of eight full-time staff

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Salisbury continues to push toward inclusion goals

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

Salisbury University has released its new mandatory online diversity training program for the campus community following turbulent months of racially charged incidents across campus. The training, titled "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Students," is broken into two sections, with the first an estimated 40-minute training course and the second a short survey. Every SU student must complete the training by the March 15 deadline, according to the university's training email sent to the campus community.

The training for the university's faculty is expected to include more modules for teaching in a diverse and inclusive environment in addition to the sections taken by students.

"We [at SU] believe in the importance of creating a safe and healthy environment for all of our community members," read the preview to the courses. "These trainings, in addition to being highly interactive and engaging, are based in research around the best practices for healthy communities."

Dorien Rogers, the director of diversity and

Continued on page 3



SU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion is working to fulfill its objectives outlined in the university's new Strategic Plan, initiated by recently hired Chief Diversity Officer Joan Williams and other campus leaders (Image courtesy of Salisbury University Public Relations Office.)

Page 2 **Commencement to remain mostly virtual despite loosened restrictions**

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

Hopes for a shift back to an in-person commencement ceremony were turned away from Salisbury University graduates on March 18, as President Charles Wight announced the state's lowered coronavirus restrictions would not change the university's plans for a mostly virtual celebration.

Gov. Larry Hogan issued an executive order March 9 that lifted capacity limits on indoor and outdoor dining, retail businesses, fitness centers and religious establishments beginning March 12. The order also eased restrictions on large outdoor venues, including Sea Gull Stadium, the potential site for an in-person ceremony.

University of Maryland, College Park is now exploring options to increase its in-person commencement attendance to as many as 12,000 people within Maryland Stadium, according to the university's newspaper, The Diamondback. The stadium has a maximum capacity of 54,000.

Despite the moderate reopening of Sea Gull Stadium for spectators, Wight said the changes would still not be enough to accommodate an in-person commencement ceremony for SU.

"While some other Maryland institutions have announced outdoor, in-person Commencement ceremonies at their stadiums, these announcements mostly have been limited to those with seating for 25,000 to 50,000 people," Wight said. "Sea Gull Stadium, on the other hand, has a maximum capacity of about 6,000, and that is reduced to just a few hundred when appropriate physical distancing is taken into consideration."

The university is still planning to hold an in-person "grad walk" for spring graduates, Wight said. Provost Project Manager Kim Meyer said spring graduates would be able to select individual time slots to bring two guests to Sea Gull Stadium, where a commencement stage will be assembled, over a period of a few days following virtual commencement ceremonies for each academic school.

The City of Salisbury has also imposed stricter limits on physical distancing, which are enforced at SU, according to Campus Health. Indoor gatherings may not exceed 15 individuals, and outdoor gatherings may not exceed 50 individuals.

Meanwhile, concerns have continued to mount nationwide over potential increases in coronavirus positivity rates on college campus as millions of passengers board flights daily to spring break destinations, per USA Today.

SU returned from its abbreviated two-day spring break on March 17, which Wight said was implemented to curb excessive travel away from campus.

The university administered spring break makeup tests for Wednesday and Thursday for individuals who were away from campus during their regularly scheduled testing times. SU is now testing as many as 1,200 campus members per day, said Megan Gresham, a nurse practitioner with Campus Health.

Campus community members who have been fully vaccinated will still need to remain in compliance with the university's testing protocols, said Victoria Lentz, SU's director of Student Health Services.

"The university health team is closely monitoring the science and the latest [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidance surrounding the issue and that will inform our policies," Lentz said.



SU is proceeding with its originally scheduled virtual commencement ceremonies and an in-person grad walk for spring graduates (Image courtesy of WyoFile.)

Vaccinated students, faculty and staff will also still be required to wear masks and observe social distancing, Wight said.

SU has identified 14 coronavirus cases since over 3,640 tests administered since March 11, according to the university's COVID-19 dashboard. The campus still maintains a positivity rate under 1%.

Junior Brian Ricketts, who received his weekly COVID-19 test Wednesday following the break, said he is confident in the university's preventative actions and in his peers' decision-making to prevent excess spread of the virus on SU's campus following the break.

"I trust Salisbury's population to act responsibly, and I think the university is taking enough precautions to keep us safe while still giving us opportunities to see and interact with each other in person," Ricketts said. "I think it's a good fit for both."

For more information on SU's testing protocols or to view the latest university COVID-19 test results, visit <https://www.salisbury.edu/coronavirus/testing-info.aspx>.

Counseling Center in crisis continued... from page 1

members before the resignations of Odera and Sahle, employing a total of five.

The university now has less than 50% of the minimum standard following the two departures, with three full-time employees remaining, including two full-time counselors.

This student to full-time counselor ratio of over 4,300 - 1 is a stark contrast to the national average of 1,600 - 1 for four-year institutions, according to the National Survey of College Counseling Centers.

Sahle said the center had consistently been lobbying for the hiring of at least two more full-time counselors before she resigned, though formal hires never materialized.

The former SU counselor points to a disconnect between the Counseling Center and Student Affairs as cause for the lack of support and turmoil surrounding the facility.

"I think if there were clear communication and transparency and understanding of what's going on, I think [the struggles] could have been resolved, but I don't think it exists," Sahle said. Sahle compared the center asking for more resources and staffing to not being able to receive basic needs of survival.

"It feels like when someone is asking for food ... we need food because we need to [survive]," Sahle said.

Those struggles are not new, however, as Sahle said there has been a constant battle for support since she first arrived to SU to work as a part-time counselor in 2014 well before Odera's arrival.

"It's always been an issue with a lack of resources and understanding, that's been the main issue since the beginning," Sahle said.

"With the lack of personnel, not knowing what to do, the lack of direction and students coming in for their needs and crises, it became so overwhelming."

Sahle said she was hopeful when Odera was appointed director of the center because she was "good at sharing her vision [and] goals and listening to us," believing there were better days to come in the near future.

But Sahle said Odera, who came to SU from a similar position at Towson University, became "drained" from constantly asking for more support and resources, eventually becoming overwhelmed herself.

Odera's final day as director was Feb. 16, which came just over one calendar year since she was hired by the university.

Sahle, whose last day as a counselor was Feb. 17, said Odera's decision to leave was the final straw in making her own choice to resign, fearing a return to an even worse state for the Counseling Center may be imminent.

"I couldn't imagine myself going back to how it used to be [before Odera's arrival]," Sahle said.

While Odera has already accepted a position at Tulane University, Sahle said she may decide to wait before entertaining taking another position to reset from her time at SU.

"I felt like I wasn't functioning well in terms of giving it all that I needed to serve students and be present during sessions," Sahle said. "I was getting overwhelmed and stressed [from] the lack of support, [and] meetings are always full of frustrations [from] not being able to get what we wanted."

"I just want to take couple of months and know

that I'm ready to find a job that I can be fully invested in ... I don't think it would be fair to the clients I would be serving to dive in right now."

President Charles Wight said he was "very disappointed" to learn about the two departures, calling it "a great loss for Salisbury University" during SU's first town hall of the semester.

Wight said the university will recover, however, and pointed to the "very effective" hiring practices of Student Affairs to refill those positions with "great new people."

Vice President of Student Affairs Dane Foust has said those search processes are already underway.

Sahle warns that the several recent search committees have been misleading because, while it may seem that more resources are being allocated to the center, the search committees are merely backfilling vacant positions, not adding additional needed staffing.

Sahle believes university administrators must reevaluate the Counseling Center's needs desperately, especially given the "skyrocketing demand" for mental health services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention published data in August detailing how more than one in four Americans aged 18-24 years old "seriously considered suicide in the past 30 days," while 40% of adults admitted to experiencing struggles with their mental health during that same period.

If SU intends to continue advertising an emphasis on mental health to prospective incoming students, the center "should be given more priority" and much greater investment, Sahle said.

Inclusion goals continued... from page 1

inclusion for the university's Student Government Association, took part in the training's pilot trial before the program was released to the rest of the campus community.

Rogers and the rest of the SGA's executive board provided feedback after the pre-trial demo to SU's Chief Diversity Officer Joan Williams, who assisted in developing the training in partnership with third-party vendor EVERFI. Rogers hopes the training helps to eliminate the mindset that individuals must be rewarded for displaying compassion and being inclusive.

"Although you may not be a person of color or have a disability [and] you may not understand how [a marginalized] person is feeling, you can still empathize with that person, and that's

what I want to see out of this training," Rogers said.

The new diversity training program comes in the aftermath of a racial reckoning both across the nation as well as at SU, with the university facing repeated attacks of racially charged vandalism over the last 18 months.

An inferred noose was also found on campus grounds in September, sparking outrage across the campus community until a campus police-led investigation found the object to be a bird feeder support infrastructure installed by the SU Biology Department.

In an attempt to prevent future racially charged attacks and improve campus diversity, SU's President's Office made the Office of Diversity

and Inclusion its own independent body and created the position of chief diversity officer, which would eventually be filled by Joan Williams. A special task force was also established to aid in developing initiatives for the office to improve campus diversity and support.

Rogers said the growing demand across campus for diversity training has been building steadily through recent months and encourages the university to continue working towards a more inclusive community.

"If we call ourselves an institution of higher learning [at SU], empathy is a large component of that," Rogers said. "Hopefully this training can serve as a first step towards implementing bigger initiatives."

SU to cancel summer study abroad

By Olivia Ballmann / Editor-in-Chief

Salisbury University announced the cancellation of its study abroad programs for the summer of 2021 on March 16.

SU defers to the U.S Department of State Travel Advisory System when determining travel locations for students.

"In order for [SU] to allow travel again, the State Department has to lower the travel advisory to a level two or a level one ... now, the issue is, where can you go?" said Dr. Brian Stiegler, the university's assistant provost for international education. Level one and two travel advisories were in effect at the time of the cancellation; however, according to Stiegler, countries and/or programs with low advisory levels are not allowing SU students entry at this time.

SU announced the suspension of all study abroad programs last year as the pandemic continued to spread and in-person operations were shut down, with plans to re-evaluate on March 15, 2021, according to SU's study abroad website.



Students with a desire to study in foreign destinations across the world will be forced to wait for study abroad opportunities until at least the fall semester; pandemic continues to disrupt colleges across the nation (Image courtesy of Salisbury University Facebook page.)

SU withdraws athletic training program

By Olivia Ballmann / Editor-in-Chief

Salisbury University announced its withdrawal from the Commission of Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, thereby ending SU's athletic training program, according to SU's website and a schoolwide email from Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Karen Olmstead.

Students currently enrolled in the program will still be permitted to finish and earn their degrees. SU's Athletic Training Program will be unavailable to students after the spring semester of 2022, according to the email. According to the university's website, the program was initiated by SU in 2016 and required just 42 credits for completion, whereas SU's other programs each require a total of 60 credits. The credential difference was established to provide students with a more affordable program option for athletic training.

The program, while financially beneficial, has struggled with enrollment in previous years and suffered even greater due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was a key reason for program's withdrawal, per the email. Although the program will end, students looking to pursue a career in athletic training may continue to do so through SU's School of Health Sciences, according to the email.

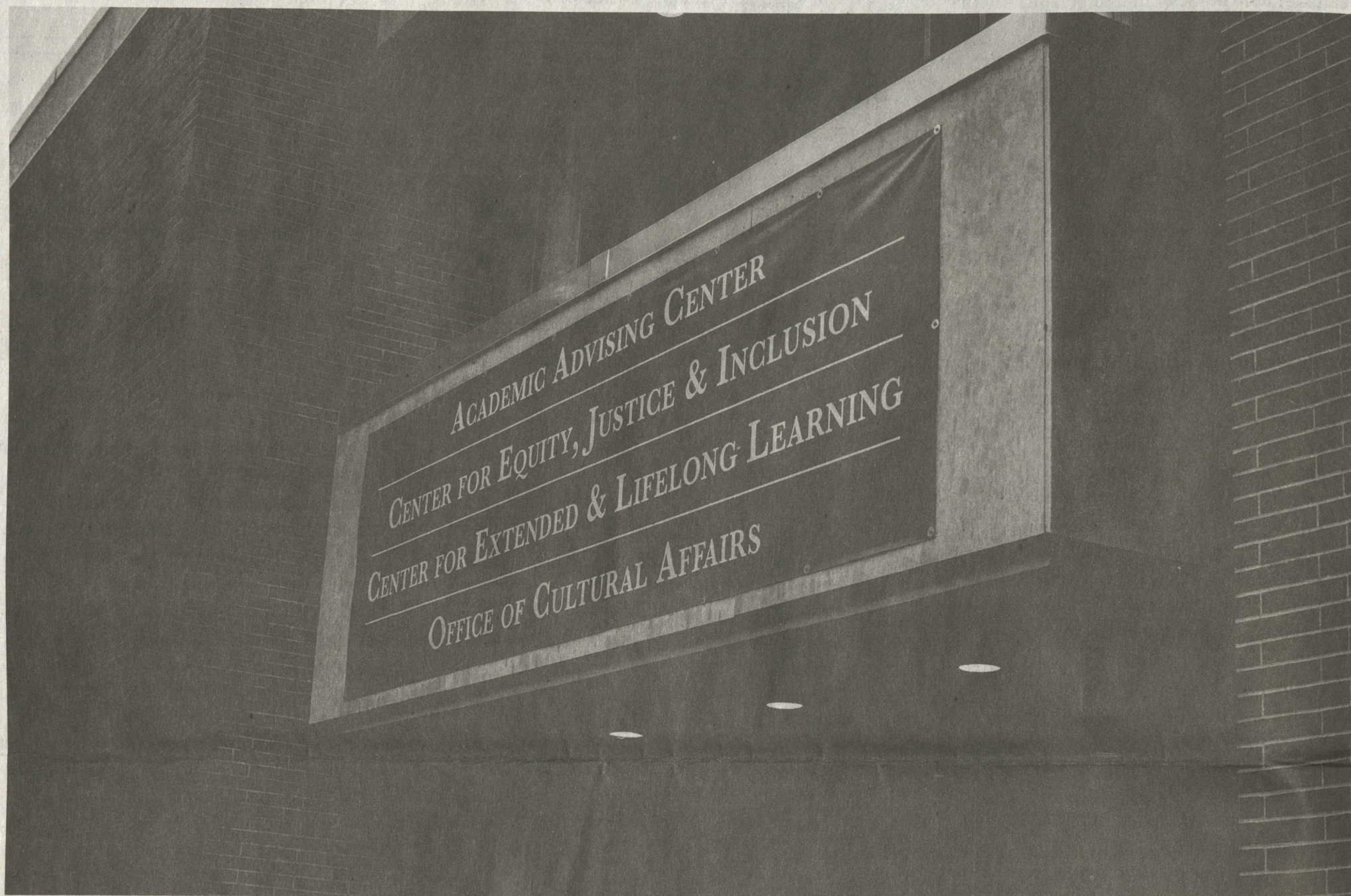


SU made the abrupt decision to end its athletic training program after five academic years, with the final opportunity to earn certification at the university coming in 2022 (Graphic courtesy of Michael Cotterino.)

**WANT TO WRITE FOR NEWS?
CONTACT JAKOB TODD
FOR INFORMATION
jtodd7@gulls.salisbury.edu**

Editorial

Is SU doing enough for racial inequality?



By Jack Fiechtner / Staff Writer

Image courtesy of Brad Boardman.

Following Black History Month's conclusion, there is a looming question over Salisbury University: Is our college doing enough to promote a diverse and welcoming community on our college campus?

Kirstyn Dugger is the President of Alpha Kappa Alpha and the Black Student Union. She had a few comments on the diversity and inclusion of Black students and faculty at Salisbury University.

She says that diversity and anti-racism at SU have improved over the years. However, subtle forms of racism and exclusion are still present. After asking Dugger if SU is a welcoming and diverse campus, she responded that "[she] only feels truly welcome with other people of color at Salisbury University. There has been some improvement with the way we are treated, but there is still a long way to go."

Dugger also provided some suggestions on how to help improve the solidarity of all students and staff at SU. She would like to see improved diversity trainings of the staff and a new general education class focused on the history of racism and discrimination in Salisbury.

"I cannot fault students for what they are not taught in the classrooms," Dugger said.

Salisbury University needs to discuss uncomfortable topics that are not being addressed.

It should not take racial graffiti written on the walls of SU buildings, or an SU staff member making a racial slur at a university-sponsored event, to trigger these discussions. The staff member has since apologized, but this an example of the bigger issue that needs to be addressed.

Discourse about the status of racial discrimination at Salisbury University should occur every day to prevent such occurrences from becoming the norm.

Progression is no longer progression if it comes to an end. Staying informed and sharing available resources to uninformed SU students can help spread solidarity in our community.

Salisbury University established the Social Justice, Equity and Teaching Transformation Faculty Learning Community to discuss classroom concerns and university-wide issues related to diversity.

The SETT-SU FLC collaboratively seeks out resources and compiles them for the use of the SU community.

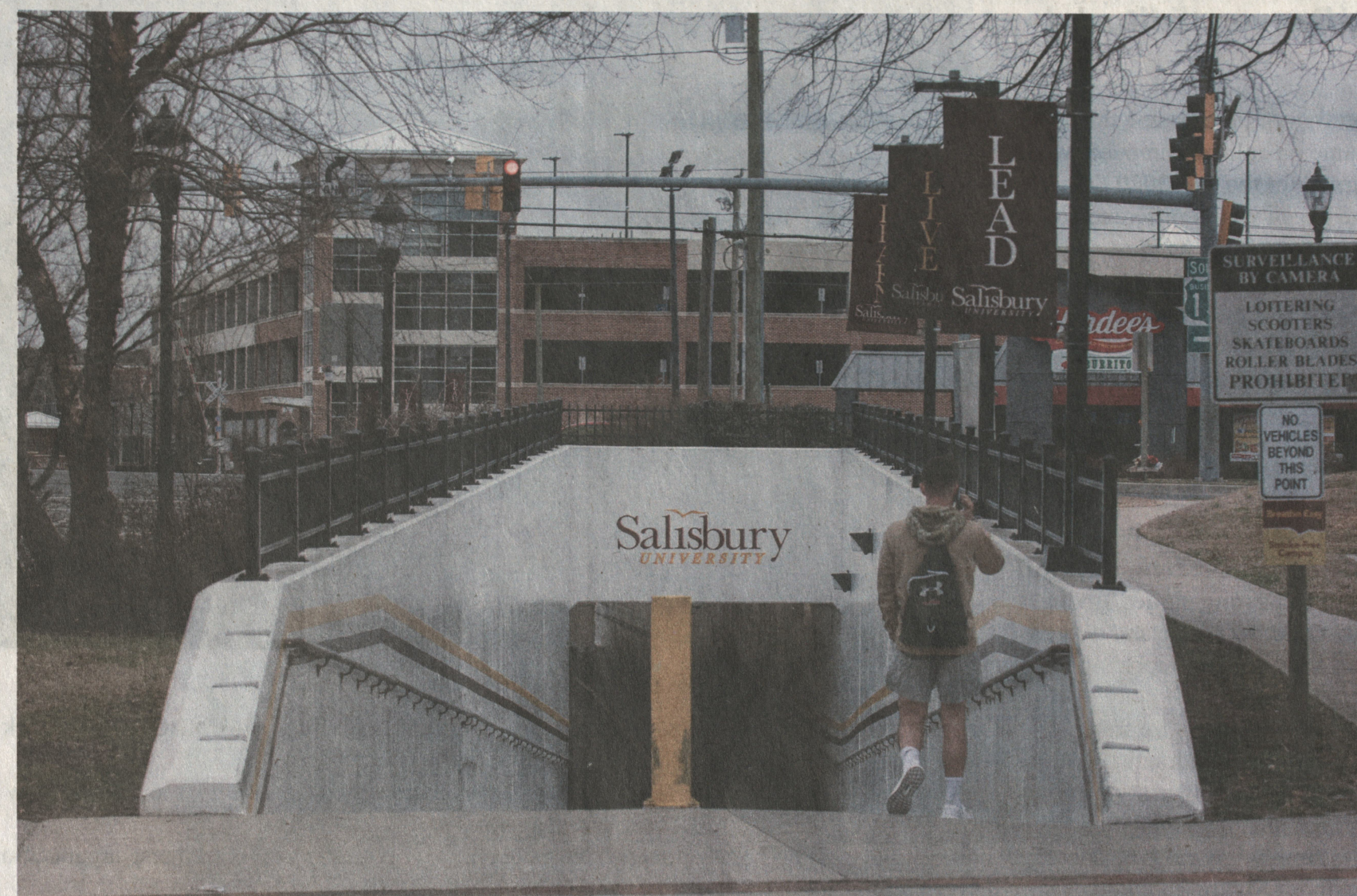
This guide includes a variety of books, podcasts, videos, films and television series which can be found on the Diversity and Inclusion Resources page at the SU Libraries website.

Salisbury University needs to be a welcoming community that treats everyone equally. The only way to reach true equality in the future is by learning from the past and continually taking steps to improve how we treat people in the present.

Progression is not progression without continual change. More can and must always be done.

TheFLYER

Should off-campus communities have resident assistants?



By Jacob Beaver / Editorial Editor

Image courtesy of Brad Boardman

I transferred to Salisbury University after two years at a community college.

I hoped living away from school would provide a sense of normalcy and peace. I wanted to have a place where I could focus on my academics.

After a thorough analysis of Salisbury University's lodging options, I chose an off-campus community. I hoped that living away from school would provide a sense of normalcy and peace where I could focus on my academics.

A place away from SU's known party culture.

I was wrong.

Within hours of moving into my apartment, my floors began rattling to the sound of intense music from an adjacent apartment. This was not the normal echo that comes from a neighbor. Intense, bass-heavy music shook my furniture and disturbed my peace for over 12 hours.

There was no resident assistant to call.

With security available only after sunset, should off-campus communities have RA programs like those on campus?

Off-campus communities are not officially associated with SU. However, they often appear at the college's housing fairs and are advertised to students.

At apartment complexes, especially those similar to University Park, RAs could both provide a meaningful experience for students as well as help keep the peace.

Management of both University Orchard and The Gathering communities did not respond to inquiries regarding off-campus resident assistants.

Students seeking either employment or volunteer experience would also benefit from the program.

There is another reason for off-campus communities to consider implementing RA's. COVID-19 presents risks to students away from the enforcement of SU's safety policies.

Stanford University RA's found themselves standing up for the enforcement of policies designed to keep their campus community safe when consequences were not being enforced, according to The Stanford Daily. SU's pandemic policies cannot be reasonably enforced beyond campus borders. Student assistants at off-campus communities could reinforce SU's COVID defenses. Whether working together with SU, or establishing their own customized experience, off-campus communities should at least consider a program by students and for students.

I recognize that not everyone wants an experience involving academic solitude. Loud music and parties are a major part of college culture across the country.

Diversity is at the heart of the modern college experience. Resident assistant programs for those who live beyond SU's campus could preserve the various dynamics of student life.

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The untold story of Greek life during COVID-19

By Jacob Beaver / Editorial Editor

Sororities and fraternities became the name of a blame game on college campuses when students returned for the Fall 2020 Semester. This game began with a difference of opinion over who retained the most responsibility for the safety of college campuses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A clear winner in this game became more apparent throughout the semester.

When COVID-19 outbreaks struck universities across the nation, administration and other officials pointed a finger at Greek life organizations.

Fraternities at the University of Tennessee were reported by Consumer News and Business Channel to be hosting parties, giving tips on how to avoid the police and how to get COVID-19 tests without reporting it to their school.

A University of New Hampshire fraternity held a party of about 100 attendees without masks, according to the same CNBC report. Greek housing was considered by UNH's administration as a riskier option compared to residence halls due to the pandemic.

Syracuse University suspended their Sigma Chi chapter altogether due to its involvement in three large parties, according to Central New York.

Both local and national media painted Greek life at universities in shades of reckless behavior.

Was Greek life simply ignoring the pandemic and partying to their hearts' content? Was the entire story being told about these organizations?

At the University of Miami, individuals within Greek organizations decided to take COVID-19 seriously.

Divisions within sororities at UM formed between those who did not want to risk catching the virus, and those who continued to violate rules.

Those who chose to wear masks at the university's fraternities have been bullied according to a report from The Miami Hurricane.

Community service has remained a staple for sororities and fraternities nationwide during the pandemic.

Greek life became a force for good according to the University of Arkansas. National Pan-Hellenic brought insight into stress caused by the pandemic in its mental health forum.

UA's Delta Sigma Theta chapter led a voter registration drive and Kappa Delta hosted a socially distant ice skating event.

Despite the suspension of Sigma Chi, most of Syracuse University's Greek organizations hosted virtual recruitment activities in accordance with COVID-19 policies according to The Daily Orange.

There are Greek chapters and organizations that have endangered their university communities. However, there are also those that have avoided the media's formed stereotype of reckless jamboree groups.

I encourage local and national media platforms to seek out stories of Greek life adapting to the pandemic and finding ways to improve the lives of their members and their communities. Even within organizations that violate pandemic policies, there were those who fought for change.

Without an honest portrayal in the media, the complete story of sororities and fraternities during the COVID-19 pandemic will be lost.



Image courtesy of Ben Lausch.

Outside crowds on campus... a mistake?

By Jacob Beaver / Editorial Editor

While visiting the dining commons for dinner, I was recently greeted with a large crowd of school children visiting the facility. Before COVID-19, this would have been nothing more than a temporary annoyance.

However, the sight of crowded food lines and the absence of seating during the pandemic raised a daunting question. Why was a large group of visitors from outside Salisbury University allowed to visit such a communal area all at once?

According to Director Owen Rosten of Salisbury University Dining Services, large groups

are subject to the same screening process as any other visitor.

What is the COVID-19 screening process for those outside the SU community?

Visitors are required to have their temperature taken and be asked a series of questions related to symptoms, tests and contact with infected individuals.

Anyone who answers "yes" to these questions will be denied access to SU. Those who pass the screening are given a visitor pass and granted access to the university's facilities.

This is a thorough process, but is it sustainable for large groups visiting communal areas such as the commons? The spread of COVID-19, even with current safeguards in place, is a real risk thanks to the introduction of mutated strains of the virus in Maryland.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United Kingdom identified a COVID-19 variant called B.1.1.7 with heavy mutation in fall 2020. This strain is believed by health officials to be more contagious than other strains.

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Image courtesy of Brad Boardman.

Outside crowds on campus... a mistake? continued... from page 6

The Baltimore Sun reported that there were 22 cases of the UK COVID-19 variant within Maryland as of Feb. 13.

Salisbury University should continue to evolve its testing methods and other policies with the introduction of mutated strains. Screenings for visitors are vital in the fight to keep SU COVID-free during the pandemic.

However, my thoughts on a crowded dining hall during peak hours of student attendance remain the same.

While the screening may keep most of those with COVID-19 away from our community, it is not a guaranteed safeguard against the virus.

Screening questions mostly involve asking visitors about symptoms. According to Harvard Health Publishing, those who contract COVID-19 may not exhibit symptoms for up to 48 hours.

Visitors may not even know they have been in contact with someone with the virus, or that they have it themselves, when completing the screening. There will always be risks taken during this pandemic, but there are ways to minimize those risks.

Exposure to students and staff should be controlled by dividing visiting groups larger than a specified size into two or more subgroups.

For example, rather than having fifty visitors attend the dining commons at once, five groups of ten visitors could attend at various times. Social distancing could still be enforced, and any exposure to COVID-19 for SU students would be minimized.

This would mimic the standards in place for Campus Tours and Information Sessions at SU, which currently enforce a guest limit of 10.

The virus's impact on SU has remained minimal, with positivity rates from testing below 1% according to the latest virtual COVID-19 update from President Wight. Our university is safe, and it should remain that way.

Amid rising COVID-19 variants and in keeping with current policies, SU should reconsider how to handle large groups of those who visit our campus from outside the seagull community.

**Want to write for
Editorial? Contact Jacob
Beaver
jbeaver2@gulls.salisbury.edu**

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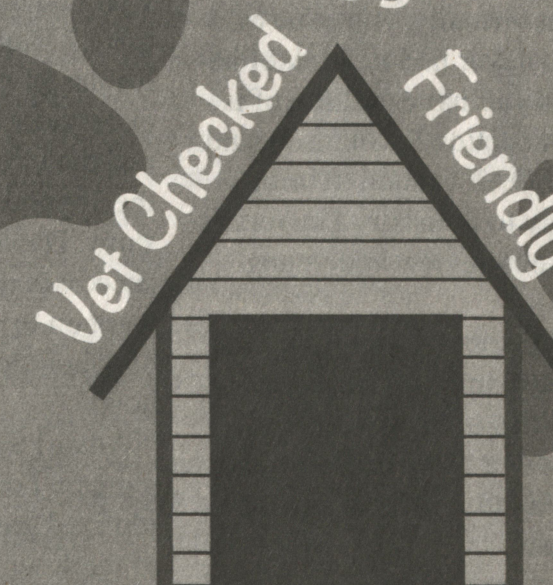
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Kaylon Blake's guide to inclusion on campus

By Stephanie Rivera /
Gull Life Editor

From mandatory diversity training to the Black Excellence Series, Salisbury University is taking action to promote racial inclusivity on campus. Kaylon Blake, the host of the Virtual Speaker Series, outlined various ways racial exclusion is ingrained within our society. Acknowledging the problem is the first step in ensuring that the problem does not continue.

Blake said that, as the future leaders of society, we must speak up and defend our fellow constituents experiencing racially motivated microaggressions from their peers. By acknowledging the problem, we can keep the conversation going.

"It's not what we do once in a while that shapes our lives. It's what we do consistently," Blake said.

Blake recognizes the steps SU is taking to promote racial inclusion but states we must take additional actions to ensure our continuous progression.

"We have to make sure everyone has a seat at the table, within the institution," Blake said. We must acknowledge marginalized groups on campus and ensure they have a voice. The institution must take active measures to ensure that marginalized individuals feel valued on our campus.

"The institution has to create opportunities where students can talk about things that are impacting them and how they feel," Blake said.

Through the establishment of recurring forums, students can express concerns about racial diversification. By allowing this form of expres-



Image courtesy of Center for Student Involvement and Leadership's.

sion, participants can understand a variety of differing perspectives. The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership's construction of this Virtual Speaker Series is an excellent step in the journey towards embracing diversity. Students in the seminar reacted positively to Blake's discussion and indicated the necessity to participate in these conversations. "Through this [series], I was able to embrace a lot of what Blake was speaking on ... [Blake] has a sort of energy that makes it easy and fun to follow," Junior Damien Hamler said. Students have a responsibility to promote acceptance throughout campus. To ensure that students take steps to promote inclusion, Blake

created a three-pronged test. The first test is to ask yourself, "What do you need to stop doing?"

Take a step back and evaluate your actions. Think of previous conversations, liked posts on Twitter and jokes between friends. Did they hold racially demeaning sentiments? Use these interactions to evaluate your mistakes and learn from them.

The second test is to ask yourself, "What should you continue doing? What can you improve?"

Allow yourself to utilize interactions that reflect your multicultural competence and apply them to future situations.

Acknowledge your reaction to racial microaggressions;

identify ways in which you can improve your racial inclusivity and apply it to future interactions.

The third test is to ask yourself, "What do I need to start doing?"

In this final step, you must acknowledge your past faults. Through this acknowledgment, you can identify what actions you need to take in the future.

"In order to keep the conversation going, all of the students have to make sure we connect with each other and the people that are different from us," Blake said.

There is no step-by-step guide for racial inclusivity. These questions provide the framework, but the real work lies with the individual. Take steps to promote diversification and never stop the conversation.

Pete Davidson's virtual visit to Salisbury

By Jyani Bonner / Staff Writer

Student Organization for Activity Planning held a virtual conversation with SNL's, Pete Davidson for Salisbury University students. Lead Events Chair Sean Robinson shed some light on what it took to orchestrate this celebrity meet-up.

"It was pretty easy for us to do. Myself personally, I've had quite a bit of experience with the board so far and know who to contact as a middle agent," Robinson said.

According to Robinson, a conversation with Pete Davidson was a goal for SOAP but, COVID-19 brought about complications regarding the nature of the event.

"When you're doing it virtually, you have to think of things you've never had to think of before. One of the things you have to think of is having a good wifi connection," Robinson said. Robinson mentioned SOAP wanted to bring Pete Davidson virtually to Salisbury University because he is a well-known, new and young comedian.

Robinson added that he hopes in the future, SOAP will be able to expand their reach and chat with more celebrities of the arts.

The meeting started with a delay as Davidson mentioned he was trying to finish his day off moving into a new place.

"I don't live with my mom anymore. It's nice," Davidson said.

Robinson and On-Campus Programming Director Andrew Grauso were the night's hosts. They explained the night would consist of three

segments: A Q&A, two truths and a lie and this or that.

Audience members learned a little more about how Davidson started his career in comedy during the Q&A portion.

"I started stand-up when I was 16. There was an open-mic competition in Staten Island, where I lived in this place called the Looney Bin ... a comedy club inside a bowling alley next to a Wendy's and an LA Fitness. So, when you were on stage and it wasn't going well you could hear people bowl," Davidson said.

Robinson inquired about the experience of working at SNL, and the effects of working as the youngest performer on the show. Davidson spoke on his successes during the show, and went on to share his dream collaboration and favorite SNL host.

"[Adam] Sandler was just like a dream host for me. The guy I idolized growing up, and I got to work with him for a week," Davidson added that he would like to work with one of his



Image courtesy of Student Organization for Activity Planning.

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Pete Davidson's virtual visit to Salisbury continued...from page 8

inspirations, Al Pacino because, "he's amazing and hysterical."

Grauso asked Davidson to divulge into the challenging parts of being a celebrity in the spotlight.

Davidson said it is embarrassing for him, but he gets to do what he loves and meet great people. Although stressful, he would not change a thing. During the conversation, Davidson credited Judd Apatow and Lorne Michaels for having the biggest impact on his career.

"Judd and Lorne are like the comedy goats. I feel lucky to get their stamp of approval. These guys changed my life," Davidson said.

To wrap up the evening, Davidson answered some of the questions.

Davidson's interview is a foresight to the future of SOAP events, and stands as a predecessor for the next celebrity of the arts to visit SU. To check out the future events SOAP will be orchestrating, visit the Involved@SU webpage!

Accelerated Mentoring Program advancing minority students

By Stephanie Rivera /
Gull Life Editor

If you are a racial minority student majoring in Psychology at Salisbury University, you have the opportunity to join the Accelerated Mentoring Program. Students entering their sophomore or junior academic year, who are planning to attend a graduate psychology program, can partake in this professional development program.

The AMP program is a unique integration of a mentored community-based participatory action research experience. It provides opportunities to connect with racial minority professional mentors who help participants advance in psychology.

Psychologist's affiliated with the program conduct research in a variety of areas, allowing students to gain a broad understanding of the tenants of psychology.

"This program helps prepare us for graduate school and life after college by helping me build my resume. Within AMP, I have already had help applying to two graduate schools supported by a variety of letters of recommendation[s]," AMP student Jakquan Jackson said. AMP students can cultivate critical skills, such as developing a professional e-portfolio. This experience is also integrated with outreach programs to assist youth by mentoring middle and high school students in Salisbury schools.

"Within (AMP), we are mentoring the youth, and doing research projects with the assistance of receiving mentoring by psychologists of color ... We are focusing the research on various social problems facing racial minorities," Romana Harden of the AMP program said. AMP participants mentor students to provide an environment where youths can develop their career and educational goals. They discuss a range of social issues, including minority incarceration rates, effects of racial discrimination, environmental degradation and more. Participants learn necessary research



Image courtesy of SU Psychology, featuring participating AMP students.

skills and acquire field experience allowing Salisbury graduates to enter a variety of competitive psychology graduate school programs.

"AMP helps students identify and focus on the field of psychology [they] want to focus their graduate studies within ... Psychology contains a variety of disciplines, and it's great to be able to associate with mentors from a variety of fields, especially psychologists who are racial minorities themselves," Jackson said.

Students in AMP are privy to various opportunities, and students create academic presentations displayed in professional conferences.

"This program helped me realize that through AMP, I have so many options! Throughout (AMP) I have time to figure out what I want to do, the decisions I need to make towards getting there. Dr. Okubo and Dr. Schlehofer were so helpful and supportive throughout every step," Harden said. If you are interested in joining the AMP program, act fast, as space is limited to solely ten students. For more information or general questions, email Dr. Okubo (yxokubo@salisbury.edu) and Dr. Schlehofer (mmschlehofer@salisbury.edu).

SU Women's Forum strives to empower and support gender equity

By Olivia Ballman / Editor-in-Chief

The Salisbury University Women's Forum is an organization working to promote gender equity throughout the campus community. Led by Dr. Elsie Walker, SUWF held their annual conference to start the conversation on gender equality on Salisbury's campus.

"We established our chapter a few years ago because we felt it was important to have a group focused on gender equity that was specific to Salisbury University. And, from my point of view, the goal is about making the whole campus culture a place of greater awareness, support for and initiatives geared towards creating greater gender equity. It's also — on a more fundamental level, creating a new sense of sisterhood that's a bit more visible and right now [during the COVID-19 pandemic] that feels especially important," Walker said.

Overtime, Walker has noticed the organization's increasing willingness to engage in deeper discussions — something Walker feels is vital to create change within the campus community.

"Each one of the conferences ... the inaugural conference was in 2017 and it was called 'Hearing Women's Voices,' so it was very directly addressing the idea that women need to be heard and they're quite often silenced. The second conference was in 2018 and the theme ... was confronting conflict creating change. By that point we were becoming a little more ambitious about having the difficult conversations and at the same time, discussing ways of moving forward. With the third conference of 2019, I think we had gathered enough steam and campus-wide support that we were even more blunt about the idea of seeking justice and making claims about what has happened, but also what still needs to happen for there to be true gender equity. And then, with last year's conference we were reflecting a lot because we realized it had been 100 years since the first American women got the right to vote. We were also very aware that many women of color, and many minorities, did not have easy access to the vote for a long time. So, there's been a kind of running theme of looking at how far we've come, but also looking at how much further we have to go..."

Although previous SUWF conferences were held in-person, Walker was determined to continue the organization's annual conference during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued on page 10

SU Women's Forum strives to empower and support gender equity continued... from page 9

Thus, Walker has made this year's 2021 SUWF conference completely virtual.

"We felt it was important to do something even if it couldn't be in the same format. We also felt it was important to deformalize the proceedings a little bit because expecting people to sit down and absorb formal presentations on top of everything else they're juggling right now [the pandemic] felt counterinitiative."

The event featured multiple videos, from SU students, faculty and staff highlighting significant thoughts and ideas on the importance of gender equity.

Walker hoped the inclusion of short videos from various individuals, regardless of their involvement with the organization, will broaden conversation, allowing for numerous voices to be heard.

"The goal was to also include as many voices as possible and to make sure that it would feel like a genuinely open invitation to everybody..."

Walker feels the continuation of SUWF's conference importance is particularly important this year as the pandemic has been particularly difficult for women and minority groups.

"Well, on an immediate level of the campus culture, I think it's important people understand the pandemic has been disproportionately damaging to the lives of women and, indeed, all historically marginalized groups.

And this is because the hardships that have come with the pandemic have amplified or extended the inequities that already existed. On a more practical level and thinking more specifically about those who identify as female, it is a widely understood fact that many women are shouldering the majority of home responsibilities on top of working full time. This is a juggling act that is not only difficult, but sometimes extremely challenging to sustain, and I think it's important that there be a widespread understanding and acknowledgement of this..."

Additionally, Walker recognizes the historical significance of the COVID-19 pandemic regarding gender equity.

"This is more than a passing pandemic reality, but one that is simply more amplified and vis-

ible now ... I'm optimistic we can learn from this terribly challenging time. My fear is that people might forget, and I think it's very important that we don't just expect to go back to business as usual. Thousands upon thousands of people have lost their jobs — a majority of those people are women."

Walker feels the pandemic can be viewed as an opportunity for societal growth.

"But what I also hope is this entire situation — the visibility of inequity that is so manifest right now — is something people will hold on to and consider how to change in a much more concerted way."

Walker utilized the event, allowing people to find solace in one another.



Graphic courtesy of Michael Cotterino.

"With regard to our event ... our goal primarily is to be an uplifting presence for those who identify as female on campus because we're seeing a lot of people near breaking point, and this is a moment to offer inspiration, hope, uplifting stories and testimonies to the strength of women on campus, which we hope will inspire people who want to see their colleagues speaking out, but also students who can benefit from

hearing faculty and staff speak in a new way, in a way that might be a little more candid, or personal, emotional or direct..."

Despite the progress made over the years, Walker expresses how relevant and present gender equity issues are in today's world, especially for young women in college.

Walker believes addressing these societal issues and expectations is necessary for creating change and shares her advice for future generations:

"...I think we are often socially or culturally indoctrinated to believe that so-called 'feminine' qualities of humility, sensitivity and emotionality are signs of weakness, and that, in order to achieve a lot in the world, you have to somehow slough off these properties — to steal yourself for being competitive in the world at large. But the older I get and the further I go professionally, the more strongly

I feel that these qualities are imperative, for not only achieving a lot in what you do, but believing in what

you're doing from the fullest humanitarian perspective.

I think that young women moving forward have a lot to contend with because the employment opportunities are more scarce than they have been, and the anxiety upon finishing a degree is very real and I think a lot of women feel that they are inherently — sometimes vulnerable. But for me, being in touch with your, 'feminine...' qualities of sensitivity and self-consciousness, your compassion can lead to extraordinary possibilities because these are the very parts of you that help you connect with other human beings

and realize your place in the world, and also the work that matters to you and that you want to give your heart to as well. So, I suppose I'm arguing that certain 'feminine' properties are what we need and what the world needs right now to become better."

The SUWF strives to encourage gender equity and hopes to empower students who identify as female.

Email Womensforum@salisbury.edu to find out how to contribute to their effort's.

SafeRide's month of Alcohol Awareness

By Holly Wilson /
Staff Writer

Before life with COVID-19, SafeRide provided safe, free and confidential transportation to SU students during the weekends. This year, they are serving the community with an online event each week of March.

Gabriela Torres, Director of Community Relations and Co-Director of Finance and Operations of SafeRide, said that since they weren't operating, they teamed up with the Wellness Center to host events for the students of Salisbury.

"We came together as a board and came up with a few events, we pitched them to student wellness, they liked it, and so we went with it," Torres said. "Originally, it was only going to be a week, but we thought it would be more impactful if we did it over a span of a month."

After hosting their kickoff event, they are holding an information session with Karen Treber, SU's lawyer, and Dr. Leaver, a psychology professor at SU.

On the third week of March, they will have MADD representatives sharing their personal stories about drunk driving.

To close the month of March, they will have a Kahoot game to get students aware of basic facts, SU's policies and how they might affect you. Mia Coyle, Director of Employee Relations and Co-Director of Finance and Operations, said that putting on these events help promote the SafeRide organization and the work of the staff involved.

"We want the community to know that we're still here to help by spreading the word," Coyle said. Although SafeRide is not currently operating, they want to emphasize the importance of SafeRide to Salisbury's community.

Chloe Birch, Director of Personnel and Co-Director of Finance and Operations, said the bottom line is safety; she wants everyone to know the dangers of drunk driving.

"We aren't involved because we think drinking is immoral and it makes you a bad person; the part that we're concerned about is you getting home safely and keeping you and the people around you alive," said Birch.

To stay up to date on SafeRide's events, follow their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at [Susaferide](https://www.instagram.com/susaferide). To gain more information about the events hosted by SafeRide, check out [@Involved @SU](https://www.instagram.com/Involved).

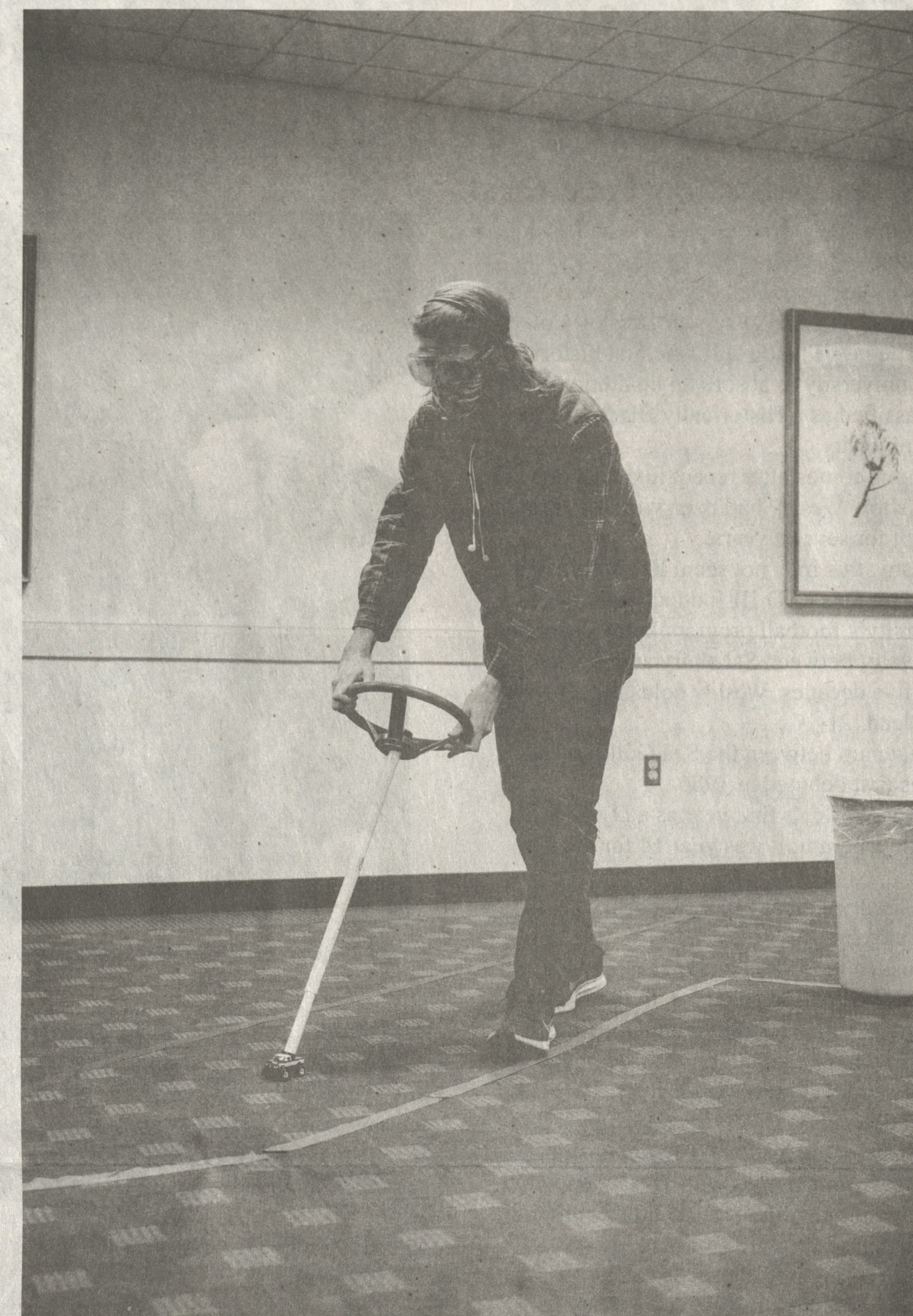


Image courtesy of Brad Boardman.

WANT TO WRITE FOR GULL LIFE?
CONTACT STEPHANIE RIVERA
srivera6@gulls.salisbury.edu

TheFLYER

Sports

The end of an era: Recapping SU football's Wesley rivalry

By Nick Lewis / Sports Editor

One of the great rivalries of Division III football came to an end on March 13.

In July of last year, Delaware State University announced its plans to acquire Wesley College. The move made DSU the first historically Black university to absorb an institution that is not classified as a Historically Black College and University.

The move comes after recent financial documents show Wesley had been working through a deficit for several years.

For many, this may not seem like significant news. But fans of D-III football and Salisbury University's football program know different. The rivalry between Salisbury and Wesley spans five decades. Wesley holds the all-time series lead, 21-10.

The matchup between the Sea Gulls and Wolverines first debuted in 1986.

This was Wesley's first year as a Division III football program. It was year 14 for the Sea Gulls.

It was hardly a close affair. Salisbury claimed a 63-13 victory.

SU finished the 1986 regular season with an unblemished record and a trip to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Playoffs. This was one of just three undefeated regular seasons in program history.

After a deep postseason run, the Gulls fell to Augustana in the National Championship. The next two matchups with Wesley ended in similar fashion, with the Sea Gulls winning by a combined score of 138-6.

After facing in three consecutive seasons, the teams did not meet for five years. They returned to action on Oct 23, 1993.

This time, the Wolverines had the advantage. Wesley College knocked off SU for the first time in the series by a 45-30 margin. This sparked a long run of Wolverine success in the rivalry and a drought of sorts for Salisbury. After reaching the National Championship in 1986, Salisbury would not return to the "big dance" until 2002.

Wesley went on to win seven of the next eight matchups between the two schools. After three straight SU wins from '02-04, the Wolverines rattled off 10 straight wins against the Sea



Image courtesy of SU Sports Information.

Gulls.

The two teams split the final six games of the series, with each side claiming three wins. Two of those Salisbury wins were a lot more important than they appear on the stat sheet. The first came in 2015. Salisbury entered the game with a 5-2 record and hopes of still reaching the NCAA Tournament. Wesley entered action at 8-1 and having won the last 10 faceoffs against the Sea Gulls.

The game suited the rivalry well; the teams tied 7-7 in the first quarter, 14-14 in the second and 14-14 in the third. With 15 minutes to play, the teams were locked at 35.

A 36-yard field goal from sophomore kicker Alex Potocko was the difference. With 2:23 minutes remaining, Salisbury took a lead they would not relinquish.

Seven days later, it seemed as if the win would not matter. Salisbury found themselves trailing Frostburg State 27-7 entering the fourth quarter.

They went on to win, 28-27, securing the largest comeback in program history since 1984.

The Gulls had become New Jersey Athletic Conference Co-Champions in their first year in the conference and punched their ticket to the NCAA Tournament.

The second of these victories was in the last full season for SU football. While it didn't directly lead to the postseason, it felt just as much like a postseason game.

The maroon and gold claimed the 30th installment of the Route 13 Rivalry in a shootout, 45-38. The win kept Salisbury undefeated on the year and propelled them to the third undefeated regular season in school history.

The Sea Gulls rode the momentum to the New Jersey Athletic Conference Championship and the automatic qualifier for the NCAA Tournament. The team defeated their first-round opponent, Maritime (N.Y.), by an 83-0 margin.

After another tournament victory over Union, 62-41, the Gulls eventually fell to Muhlenburg in the NCAA Quarterfinals.

This season's victory over Wesley gave Salisbury its tenth and final win in the series. Looking back, who would have thought watching Wolverines and Sea Gulls go at it would have been so much fun to watch?

**WANT TO WRITE
FOR SPORTS?
CONTACT NICK
LEWIS
nlewis4@gulls.salis-
bury.edu**

Salisbury head athletic trainer announces retirement

By Nick Lewis / Sports Editor

Salisbury University's head athletic trainer Pat Lamboni announced his intentions to retire at the end of the 2020-21 athletic season, according to a news release.

Lamboni has overseen the athletic training department for the last 39 years. He has worked his way from being a student athletic trainer in 1976 to building fully accredited athletic training undergraduate and graduate programs at Salisbury.

"There have been countless staff members, interns, students and coaches that helped build this athletic training program to where it is today," Lamboni said in the release. "It has been a collective effort to make this a very memorable place to be for the past 39 years."

Lamboni first arrived at then-Salisbury State College in '76 as a transfer from Essex Community College. He spent his undergraduate

career playing baseball and earned his bachelor's degree in 1978.

Lamboni received his Master of Science in 1980 from Salisbury and went on to spend two years as the Head Athletic Trainer at Catholic University. He then returned to Salisbury in the same position.

Dr. Gerry DiBartolo, SU's Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation, said he has built a strong relationship with Lamboni through his time with the university.

"I have had the honor and privilege of getting to know, working with and growing a friendship with [Lamboni] in our time here at SU," DiBartolo said in the release. "He has done a tremendous amount of work to help grow our athletic program and keep our stu-

dent-athletes healthy."

Lamboni was named a Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer by the National Athletic Trainers Association in 2004. In 2010, he was named the Division III Head Athletic Trainer of the Year by the same organization.

The Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers Association also welcomed Lamboni into its Hall of Fame ranks in 2014.



Head athletic trainer Pat Lamboni (left) pictured with athletic training students in 2019 (Photo courtesy of Sports Information.)

Stephenson reflects on her Salisbury career

By Brandon Stark / Staff Writer

A longtime member of Salisbury University athletics bids her farewell in May.

Longtime Salisbury University men's and women's swimming coach and Assistant Athletic Director Jill Stephenson will be retiring at the end of the spring semester.

Stephenson enjoyed 26 years at the helm of the men's and women's swim teams as the longest-tenured and winningest coach in SU swimming program history. She collected 211 meet wins and eclipsed the 100-win mark for both the men's and women's swim teams. Stephenson has been named a two-time Capital Athletic Conference (now Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference) Coach of the Year during her career.

During her tenure, the Sea Gulls record book has been constantly rewritten with over 100 new records since 1995.

Before her time at SU, Stephenson was the head coach for the men's and women's swim teams and the cross-country teams at Olivet College in Michigan for six seasons.

Prior to her coaching days, Stephenson was a four-year letter winner for the Northern Michigan University swim team. She graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in physical education.

Stephenson said she originally planned to teach, but soon realized she wanted to coach.

"I taught middle school for one year and I knew that was not my life's calling, so the next best thing was coaching," Stephenson said. "My intent was always to coach anyway, but the middle school stint solidified that."

When Stephenson first arrived on the shore to interview for the head coach position, she said the area was like her roots in Michigan and she enjoyed it.

"I was looking for a position that was similar to what I did in Michigan and when I came out here to interview, not only was it a similar position, but also the area was very similar to Michigan, so I really liked it," Stephenson said. Kyle Russell and Ellen Berry are Stephenson's last two seniors as the head coach. They both expressed how grateful they are for the past four years under Stephenson's coaching.

"I'm so grateful to have been given the opportunity to be coached by Jill and to be [one of] her last two college seniors that she'll ever coach is so special," Russell said.

Berry said she was unsure how long she would be on the SU swim team when she arrived on campus.



Jill Stephenson celebrates her 100th career men's swimming victory (Photo courtesy of Sports Information.)

Despite that, Berry explained how she has benefited from staying on the team for her full college career.

"Being on the swim team has brought me so much closer to Jill and so many of my other teammates that I never would have met if I hadn't continued doing this, so it has been a major part of my life for the past four years," Berry said.

Stephenson's final season at the helm of the swim teams got off to a rocky start. The coronavirus led to most athletic programs being halted temporarily, and the SU swim team was no exception.

Additionally, there were also renovations to the pool in Maggs Physical Activities Center, which left the team without a place to practice early in the shortened season.

Stephenson said the team's first real training in the pool did not come until January. She explained that for the first month of the season, her teams had to find wherever they could to do dry land training and calisthenics.

Starts and stops in practice due to a few cases of COVID-19 and holidays prevented Salisbury from getting much practice in before the new year.

Despite the countless setbacks, the team broke seven records this year. Stephenson praises her teams from this past season for all that they had to put up with.

"We started the season back in October with no pool, so we spent our first month doing stuff outside," Stephenson said. "We had no prac-

tice place so we practiced wherever we could find a spot and we did dry land training and calisthenics ... then the pool opened, and then we had our first couple cases of COVID-19, so that shut us down for the week. And then we come back and set seven records, unbelievable. I would have never guessed that we could do that."

Berry praised not only Stephenson, but Salisbury for the great job she felt they did in managing COVID-19 to prevent the athletes from missing out on their seasons this year.

In addition to being the head coach of both swim teams, Stephenson is also the SU aquatics director and assistant athletic director. Stephenson said while all her duties may be more difficult to manage during certain times of the year, it has never been too much for her to handle.

Reflecting on her greatest memories here at Salisbury's head coach, Stephenson said she cherishes all the awards the team has won over the years such as Swimmer of the Year and Swimmer of the Meet and traveling to the NCAA championship with some of her athletes.

"I wouldn't trade it for anything, the people that I've met and the people that I'm still in touch with ... it's been a great ride," Stephenson said.

In the eyes of Russell, Stephenson has already cemented her legacy as an all-time great here at Salisbury.

"She is a legend and an amazing coach and will live on forever as a coach here," Russell said.

Salisbury linebacker making special moments through music

By Jack Fiechtner / Staff Writer

There are many talented students attending Salisbury University. One of these students is Josh Adewumi, a linebacker on the football team and a musician and singer in his free time. Adewumi is a senior at SU majoring in exercise science and minoring in music. He is from Springdale, Maryland.

During the 2019-20 football season, Adewumi racked up 34 total tackles, six tackles-for-loss and two sacks. He helped anchor a Sea Gull team that finished the season ranked sixth in the nation and reached the Elite Eight round of the NCAA Tournament.

On March 13, Adewumi recorded his first career interception in the final Route 13 Rivalry game against rival Wesley College. The turnover helped swing the momentum in the Sea Gulls' favor and led to a 32-30 victory.

Coming from a family of musicians and singers, Adewumi said his father inspired him to take up an instrument.

"My dad gave me the idea," Adewumi said. "I started out singing at a young age and he told me that he knew I was a talented singer, and a great musical instrument to go with my voice would be the saxophone."

He started out playing the saxophone for the community at his local church in Prince George's County. This is where Adewumi said he developed and grew his musical talent.

"It helped me build my confidence and sharpen my skills with the saxophone," Adewumi said.

Playing for his congregation gave Adewumi the community outreach necessary for people to hear him perform publicly.

Soon, people began asking him for personal performances including many relatives, friends and companions in his community.

On special occasions, people would request Adewumi to play a favorite song or a happy birthday to someone special.

The more people heard him play, the more the requests began to come in.

"Seeing the smiles on peoples' faces while I was performing for them pushed me to continue to play," Adewumi said.



Josh Adewumi performs at Salisbury Got Talent (Photo courtesy of Josh Adewumi.)

Adewumi has performed a variety of different gigs but described his favorite being wedding proposals.

He has also showcased his talents on SU's campus. He won the annual talent show at SU, Salisbury Got Talent, in March of last year. Recently, he went home to perform for his brother's best friend's proposal.

"[My brothers] best friend and I approached his future wife in the park with a speaker while performing 'If I Ain't Got You' [by Alicia Keys]," Adewumi said. "It was such a beautiful moment to be a part of something so special between a loving couple."

Salisbury women's soccer making adjustments, not excuses

By Tommy West / Staff Writer

The Salisbury University women's soccer team has had one motto all offseason.

"Don't make excuses, make adjustments."

In a typical fall semester, the Sea Gulls would find themselves in the thick of the regular season. Instead, they found themselves wondering when they would see the field again.

The lack of a fall season halted great momentum the team had built during a 2019 campaign that saw Salisbury finish 13-3-3 and 9-0-1 in conference play.

For junior midfielder Ally Goetz, it was a reminder not to take anything for granted.

"Next year being my last year still doesn't feel like it has hit me yet," Goetz said. "It's definitely encouraged us to take advantage of every opportunity."

Goetz is coming off a year that saw her capture an All-Capital Athletic Conference (now Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference) First Team bid.

In her sophomore season, Goetz registered four goals along with two assists.

Eighth-year head coach Kwame Lloyd said the leadership shown by SU administration throughout the offseason has helped them reach this point.

"It was daunting initially because we did not know what to expect," Lloyd said. "But I am very proud of the university for giving us the resources we needed, and our players for showing a tremendous amount of discipline throughout this process."

Lloyd also gives credit to the various athletic trainers as well as the sports performance department.

While the negative aspects of this pandemic are apparent, Lloyd says that his team has tried to draw some positives from the situation.

"We have been able to build a lot of trust with one another," Lloyd said. "And as a result of all of this, our freshman class is probably the closest-knit group we've ever had."

In the midst of COVID-19, many sports have tentative schedules. Coaches and athletes enter each game knowing the next one is not

guaranteed.

With plenty of uncertainty surrounding games coming up this spring, Lloyd said the team plans to have their senior day on the first game of the season.

"We really want to find a way to honor our seniors for all they've done," Lloyd said. "We want to give them a farewell and some sense of closure. They deserve to be able to write their own ending as opposed to having their careers come to an end because of this virus."

Sophomore forward Autumn Dougherty found this offseason to be a crucial learning experience for both herself as well as the team.

Dougherty, whose five goals and two assists were enough to get her All-CAC First Team honors as a freshman, said the camaraderie and leadership displayed by the upperclassmen has brought the team closer together off the field.

"It was tough for us to just practice all of the time and not be able to play any actual games," Dougherty said. "But I really feel like we are starting to come together and gel as a team."

More fans allowed in Salisbury stadiums after update

By Nick Lewis // Sports Editor

More fans of Salisbury University athletics can now return to the stands.

Salisbury University announced a further increase to spectator capacity on March 11. The news followed Governor Larry Hogan's announcement regarding the indoor and outdoor capacities of gatherings in Maryland.

The policy still includes a player/coach reservation list, and each sport has a capacity for the number of people on that list. Head coaches determine which players and staff members may submit names for the list at each event. There is also limited capacity left for SU student, faculty and staff on a first come, first-served basis.

All fans and guests are required to properly wear a mask at all times while inside any SU

stadium and maintain six feet of social distance from others outside of their household.

For SU baseball, softball and men's and women's soccer, there are 50 guests permitted on the reservation list.

There are 25 seats for SU students, faculty and staff, provided they have passed their on-campus clearance through the SU mobile app.

For sports playing in Sea Gull Stadium, the reservation list can have two guests per player or coach. There are 125 seats for current students, faculty and staff.

This covers both men's and women's lacrosse, along with football and field hockey.

For Salisbury's tennis teams, there are 30 spots on the reservation list. 15 current students, faculty and staff may attend.

All three of these venues also provide limited



Spring 2021 Spectator Policy graphic by Sports Information.

Maroon & Gold Club member access. This must be coordinated with the Maroon & Gold Club Office.

At this time, no fans will be admitted in any indoor athletic facility, the intramural field or the Track & Field complex. This includes Maggs Physical Activities Center and the Indoor Tennis Center.

Staff Credit

Olivia Ballmann: Editor-in-Chief
oballmann1@gulls.salisbury.edu

Bradley Boardman: Photo Editor
bboardman1@gulls.salisbury.edu

Megan Campbell: Ad Manager
mcampbell16@gulls.salisbury.edu

Kirsten Stillwell: Copy Editor
kstillwell@gulls.salisbury.edu

Nick Lewis: Sports Editor
nlewis6@gulls.salisbury.edu

Stephanie Rivera: Gull Life Editor
srivera6@gulls.salisbury.edu

Jakob Todd: News Editor
jtodd7@gulls.salisbury.edu

Jacob Beaver: Editorial Editor
jbeaver2@gulls.salisbury.edu

Michael Cotterino: Layout & Graphics Editor
mcotterino1@gulls.salisbury.edu